Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1620 - August 27, 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1620 with a release date of Friday, August 29th, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Ham radio returns to Bangladesh, Canada adopts a new High Frequency ham radio bandplan, U-S hams prepare for Hurricane Gustav, repeater site rental fees go up in Australia and ham radio helps to honor an aviation pioneer. Find out who on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1620 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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RADIO NEWS: HAM RADIO RETURNS TO BANGLADESH

Ham radio is returning to Bangladesh after an several years absence. This with word that the amateur radio license issuing authority in Bangladesh has begun issuing licenses once again. Marilyn Syme, VK3DMS, has the details:

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Good news from S21 Land , Bangladesh.

Since 2004, amateur radio license issuing authority in Bangladesh had stopped taking examinations and issuing licenses to the enthusiast.

After continuous lobbying for the last four years, members of the Bangladesh Amateur Radio League - BARL had finally been able to make the concerned authorities understand the significance of Ham Operators in a country with frequent natural disasters like floods and cyclones.

As part of the latest development, the BTRC has decided to resume the process of issuing Amateur Radio Licenses and take examinations regularly every month.

Good news is hardly heard from anywhere and it is more welcome when it comes from a country like Bangladesh and even more appreciable when it is for a hobby like the Amateur Radio.

I'm Marilyn, VK3DMS

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To assist with the re-introduction of ham radio, the Bangladesh Amateur Radio League is offering classes to prepare for the exam, which will be computer based with 35 multiple choice questions. In order to receive a Bangladesh amateur radio license, examinees must achieve 18 correct answers. One hour will be given to complete the test. (WIA News, BTRC)

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THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD: POPULAR COMMUNICATION SENIOR EDITOR TOM

KNEITEL. W4XAA - SK

I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF.

The changing of the guard continues. This, with the sad news that radio monitoring icon Tom Kneitel, W4XAA, the former K2AES, has passed away at age 75.

Kneitel was Senior Editor as well as the founding Editor of Popular Communications magazine which is now published by CQ. His association with CQ began when he became the founding editor of S9, a CB magazine started by Cowan Publishing. When S9 ceased publication, Kneitel and current CQ Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, launched Popular Communications.

Tom Kneitel was the grandson of animation pioneer Max Fleischer and son of animator Seymour Kneitel. But W4XAA preferred the print media, writing for Popular Electronics and Electronics Illustrated in the 1950s and '60s. And it was during his tenure at Popular Electronics that he started the registered shortwave monitor program, which issued unofficial "WPE" callsigns to active SWL's.

Tom Kneitel had been in poor health for some time and died in Florida on August 22nd. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Judy, two sons, five daughters and ten grandchildren. Memorial services will be private.

Jim

(W2VU, CQ)

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RESTRUCTURING: CANADA ADOPTS NEW HF BANDPLAN

Canada will soon have a new plan for the High Frequency bands that gives recognition and spectrum to every current and legacy mode while making sure future technologies are accommodated.

According to a news release from Radio Amateurs of Canada, the High Frequency band plan presently in use in Canada was adopted in 1996. Since then, many changes have happened in the Amateur radio world and other nations band plans have been revised and modified.

Recognizing the need for change, just under two years ago, Radio Amateurs of Canada had asked Bob Nash, VE3KZ, to re-activate the national societies HF Band Planning Committee. This, with a goal to review and modernize the Canadian HF Band Plan.

The committee headed by Nash worked very hard in studying and consulting all across Canada to eventually come up with a band plan that was proposed to the Board of Directors of Radio Amateurs of Canada. Unlike the Regulation by Bandwidth approach being considered in the United States, the new Canadian plan retains a structure based on separation by mode and interest.

The R-A-C Board has now adopted this plan and had it posted to the organizations website. You can see the way in which Canada has divvied up

the H-F spectrum for its hams www.rac.ca/service/bandplans/hfband_e.php
 (RAC)

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RADIO LAW: NSW AUSTRALIA PROPOSES SITE FEE INCREASE FOR HAM REPEATERS

Australia's New South Whales Department of Lands has announced a Communications Facility Site Licensing proposal which may force some amateur radio clubs to shut down repeaters located on government controlled land, or face huge increases in site license fees. The Wireless Institute of Australia says that the fees could cause public service communications to be cut back. Phil Waite, VK2DKN, of the WIA News has the details:

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The scheme will require the operator of a "Telecommunications Facility" including an amateur radio communications facility (all site users including Primary Users and third-parties) to pay the Department of Lands a yearly license fee for the use of each site. An amateur radio facility will be charged $367 Australian per year and CPI indexed and subject to 5 yearly review which is the minimum amount prescribed under the NSW Crown Lands act.

The WIA has reviewed the License Agreement which appears to have been drafted in a form primarily suitable for large commercial telecommunications and media organizations, and we are concerned that the agreement does not adequately address the needs or reflect the current arrangements in place for community amateur radio clubs.

In particular, the WIA believes the indicated charges and fees may severely disadvantage affected amateur radio clubs to the point where they will no longer be able to provide and maintain their repeater and beacon facilities.

The WIA is also concerned that, in cases where the amateur radio equipment is located in the facilities of a Primary User, under the terms of the agreement the Primary User is able to impose an additional fee on third-party occupiers. As third-party occupiers are already paying license fees directly to the Dep't, in effect, an amateur radio club could end up paying twice.

The WIA has written to the NSW Department of Lands calling for a formal review of the proposed arrangements based on the fact that amateur radio clubs are not telecommunications services, but rather are not-for-profit organizations providing valuable voluntary community service. The WIA believes that amateur radio clubs should have the choice of being excluded from the scheme.

Phil Waite VK2DKN

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There is one bright side to all of this. Some clubs, especially those with only one repeater, may find the proposal to their advantage. This is because it does provide 20 year secure tenure for occupation of the radio relay site. (WIA News)

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HAM TECHNOLOGY: WINMOR TO BE UNVEILED AT THE DCC

Meantime, back in the United States, something new will be unveiled at the upcoming joint Tucson Amateur Packet Radio and ARRL Digital Communications Conference that could end part of the ongoing controversy over Winlink 2000. The biggest complaint being that the mode requires a special, high priced proprietary modem. Now, that's about to change thanks to a new digital protocol called WINMOR.

According to information supplied by Mark Thompson, WB9QZB, WINMOR, is a digital protocol designed by Rick Muething, KN6KB for use in the High Frequency ham bands within the Winlink 2000 network. It is implemented through a Windows application that uses a computer sound card for all the analog-to-digital and digital to analog conversions. And while still in the final development stage it reportedly provides error-free transfers within 200, 500 or 2000 Hertz bandwidths.

A demonstration of WINMOR is slated for the Digital Communications Conference in Chicago to be held September 26th to the 28th. Its public release is still a few months away. If it proves out as most believe it will, WINMOR holds the potential of putting high speed digital messaging on the high frequency bands into the hands many radio amateurs who have been hesitant to purchase a dedicated Pactor 3 modem. (WB9QZB)

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BREAK 1

 From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the N4MWA repeater serving Phelps, Kentucky.

(5 sec pause here)

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RADIO RULES: ARRL RESPONDS TO CONCERNS RAISED BY CALIFORNIA REPEATER OWNERS AFFECTED BY PAVE PAWS

The ARRL responded to a series of concerns raised by repeaters owners in California regarding the ongoing PAVE PAWS interference mitigation project at Beale Air Force Base near Sacramento. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, reports:

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In a lengthy e-mail dated August 20, ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, addressed a series of concerns raised by Tom Naso, N6MVT who is the owner or trustee to several of the involved repeaters in the Pave Paws interference mitigation issue.

Henderon says that Naso has raised a series of thoughtful, valid concerns.

He says that the biggest challenge the ARRL -- and through them the affected repeater owners -- continues to face is the balance between not being able to know full technical details of the interference and the testing techniques and the desire/need to know information.

Henderson says that this is a tough challenge. And while there have been a few errors in identifying call signs -- mainly because of errors in databases being used by the Air Force -- there were actual measurements made of signals identified by the Air Force testing group.

Henderson pointed out that the ARRL continues to pursue valid concerns that can be based on fact and backed up with solid data that are raised by repeater owners. He says that the League will continue to expect the FCC to perform its responsibilities. He also says that if ever a permanent shut-down order comes from the FCC, that the ARRL expects that the licensee is given their full rights for due process.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennent, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

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The ARRL's response to Naso's queries, though lengthy, attempts to address them in detail. Naso gave the ARRL permission to reprint his letter along with the ARRL response to it. Naso's letter can be found at http://www.arrl.org/news/files/pavepaws_querry_2008aug20.pdf while Dan Henderson's reply can be found on line at http://www.arrl.org/news/files/pavepaws_response_2008aug20.pdf (ARRL)

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RESCUE RADIO: REGION 2 PREPARE FOR HURRICANE GUSTAV

As Hurricane Gustav made it way across the Caribbean, a Notice to all radio amateurs in IARU Region 2 has been issued. The notice requested that IARU Region 2 member societies remind their members to be aware of emergency communications that may occur because of the storm and to keep those frequencies clear for emergency traffic.

This message did not indicate any particular frequencies that may be used for this purpose, however certain frequencies used for tropical storm tacking are well known. This includes the Hurricane Watch Net on 14. 325 MHz. It also uses 7.268 MHz and 3.950 MHz when propagation is lost on 20 meters.

WX4NHC at the National Hurricane Center in Miami, activated its High Frequency and Voice over Internet Protocol operations in anticipation of Gustav on August 26th. It monitors the Hurricane Watch Net and has requested that both land based as well as maritime mobile stations in the areas affected by Hurricane Gustav radio in weather and damage reports.

Also in operation will be other severe weather and storm relief networks that normally utilize 7.045, 7.080 and 7.110 MHz dayside and 3.740 MHz at night. If you hear emergency traffic on those frequencies please steer clear of using them unless you are directly involved in net operations.

More on Hurricane Gustav and ham radios response to it, next week. (IARU,

Southgate, others)

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RESCUE RADIO: DATE CHANGE FOR FCC PANDEMIC COMMUNICATIONS SUMMIT

The Federal Communications Commission's Public Safety and Homeland Security
Bureau has announced that it has changed the date for its summit on
Pandemic Preparedness.

The meeting titled Enhancing Communications Response for Health Care and
First Responders will now take place on Thursday, September 18, from 9:00
a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Eastern time. The venue is the Commission Meeting Room
TW-C305 in Washington D.C..

As previously reported, this important summit will focus on communications
and coordination between the health care sector, first responders,
government and the communications industry in preparation for a
pandemic. The panel discussions will also highlight ways that
communications may be expanded and enhanced in response to a pandemic and
how the communications industry will serve an instrumental role in such a
response.

The Commission had initially scheduled the Summit for September 16th. (FCC)

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NEWSLINE FOLLOW-UP: NO PIRATE PROTESTERS ON THE HAM BANDS AT THE DNC

If there were any protesters trying to use ham radio to coordinate their
attempts to disrupt the Democratic National Convention in Denver, nobody in
the area heard them.

As reported last week, Denver ARES District 22 Operations Officer Dan
Meyer, N0PUF, had posted a web notice that some websites set up by
protesters coming to the convention had suggested protesters use ham radio
rather than FRS, GMRS or CB to communicate. Meyer had said that Denver
area hams needed to be ready to T-hunt down any illegal transmissions.

But preliminary reports indicate that the protesters never bothered to read
their own websites when it comes to talking to advice on talking to one
another by radio. About the only R-F exposure they have gotten has been on
the various television news reports and that's been minimal at best.

A we go to air there have been no reports of protesters tying up any VHF
frequency nor trying to communicate with other protesters over any Denver
area repeater. Most suspect that they are likely using cellphones to
communicate although there is no way to know for certain.

Upcoming this week is the Republican National Convention in the twin cities
of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota. It will be interesting to see if
any protesters take to the ham bands there. (ARNewsline(tm) from listener
input)

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NEWSLINE FOLLOW-UP: FCC MAY BAN 700 MHZ WIRELESS MICS

A follow-up to our recent story regarding a public interest group challenging the sale and use of wireless microphones in the high UHF television spectrum. The Federal Communications Commission is proposing a ban on certain types of wireless microphones and has begun an investigation into how the industry markets its products. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in our studio with more:

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As previously reported here on Amateur Radio Newsline, a coalition of consumer groups alleged in a complaint last month that users wireless microphones are unwittingly violating FCC rules that require licenses for the devices. In its filing, the Public Interest Spectrum Coalition accused manufacturers of deceptive advertising in how they market and sell the microphones, which largely operate in the same radio spectrum as broadcast television stations.

The FCC, in a notice released Thursday, August 21st, , said its enforcement bureau had opened an investigation regarding the charges. The agency also is proposing that the sale and manufacture of some of the devices be banned.

The FCC says that wireless microphones that operate in the same frequency bands as UHF broadcast television stations are intended for use in TV, film and stage production and should not be in the hands of the general public. Most owners of the microphones are unaware that FCC rules require them to obtain a license for their use.

The FCC rarely enforces the licensing requirements on the microphones . This is because there have been so few complaints and because in theory these wireless mics are programmed to avoid any interference to operational television channels in a given geographic area.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in Los Angeles.

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UHF television channels 52 through 69 are currently used by broadcasters. They will be vacated on February 17, 2009 with the nationwide conversion to all digital broadcasting. The government sold that section of airwaves for $19 billion in the FCC's most successful auction in history. The concern is that microphones operating in that range may cause interference for the new licensees. (FCC, ARNewsline(tm))

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REGULATORY: FCC VANITY CALL FEE GOING UP ON SEPT 25

The cost of getting a vanity ham radio call sign is going up. According to a bulletin from the American Radio Relay League, on August 11th, the Federal Communications Commission announced that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase 60 cents to $12.30.

The League quotes a notice in the August 26th Federal Register was

entitled "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2008.," It includes regulatory fees the government is expected to recover at a total of $312,000,000, that encompass all the services the FCC regulates.

Now that notice has been published in the Federal Register, the increase will take effect in 30 days, on September 25th. (ARRL)

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RESCUE RADIO: ORANGE COUNTY CA RECALLS BADGES

Orange County, California's citizens including radio amateurs who serve in the Sheriff's Department's Professional Services Civilian Responder volunteer corps have been asked to return their honorary badges. This after newly selected Sheriff Sandra Hutchens said that the badges could fool people into believing the volunteers are sworn deputies.

The move comes more than a year after a July 2007 opinion issued by the states Attorney General. It says a sheriff's gift of an honorary badge to a private citizen violates California law. This, if the badge falsely purports to be authorized, or if it would deceive an ordinary, reasonable person into believing that it is authorized for use by a peace officer.

The volunteer's badges have a six-point star with a circle around it identifying the holder as a Professional Services Civilian Responder. The regular sheriff's badge is a six-point star without a circle around it. (Published news reports)

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RADIO NEWS: NEW KFI AM TOWER FINALLY UP

The new tower for Los Angeles radio station KFI is finally up. The need for a replacement dates to the 2004 the collapse of the original 750-foot tower. This, in after it was struck by a small plane piloted by a local ham. Both the pilot and his passenger will killed in the mishap.

Work on a replacement started earlier this year but the partially built tower then fell when a guy wire support gave way. The now completed tower took 13 days to construct.

KFI operates on 640 kHz and is owned by Clear Channel Communications. (RW)

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BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: DAVID BOOTH, KC6WFS - SANTA CLARITA CA RED CROSS HOMETOWN HERO

Some names in the news. First up is Dave Booth, KC6WFS, of Santa Clarita, California. He's being honored as a Red Cross Honors Hometown Hero for his valiant attempt to save a man who had suffered a heart attack and was lying in the street.

Booth was riding his bike in August 2007 when he came upon the scene. Without hesitation, KC6WFS began giving the victim Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and continued doing so until the Paramedics arrived.

Unfortunately, not every story of heroism has a happy ending. Sadly, this is one of those cases. While KC6WFS tried his best to bring a stranger with no pulse back to life, the man did not survive. But as Tim Barbour who nominated Booth for the award noted, there were other people on the scene, but none of them knew CPR or did anything to help the dying man. Only KC6WFS tried to help him to survive.

Dave Booth, KC6WFS, will receive his Red Cross Honors Hometown Hero recognition at special breakfast on Tuesday, September 11th. CBS 2 Television newscaster Rick Chambers will be the Master of Ceremonies. The Hometown Heroes Recognition Breakfast celebrates the values and principles of the American Red Cross by recognizing people in California's Santa Clarita Valley, who have taken action in a time of crisis to help others, and who consistently show an extraordinary gift for human compassion. (ARNewsline(tm))

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: NEW RADIO PROGRAMMING VIDEO FROM KN4AQ

If you own a D-Star radio and are having a problem entering your call into it, film maker Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, says help has arrived. Gary has produced and posted a short video with details of programming call signs in D-Star radios. The video which is in two parts is posted to Gary's YouTube channel at www dot youtube dot com slash KN4AQ. Its also at Gary's business website at www.arvidnews.com/dstar-programming. (D-Star Reflector)

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EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: INTELLIGENT RADIO ROADSIDE HELP ACROSS EUROPE

Europe has allocated a broadcast frequency to a new Roadside Safety information system. This, in an effort to combat road accidents and traffic jams.

According to news reports, the European Union's Intelligent Car Initiative program has dedicated a single radio frequency to smart vehicle communication systems. The system is based on a wireless communication technology and allows cars to "talk" to each other, to warn of slippery conditions or accidents.

The system relies on a single Europe-wide frequency band that is 30 MHz wide in the 5.9 GHz band. It will be introduced over the next six months and will not hinder existing roadside services. (RW)

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EMERGING TECHNOLOGY": NEW CENTRINO 2 FROM INTEL

Intel has released a new series of chips for laptop computers that it says promises longer battery life and better graphics rendering. The new Centrino 2 platform is made up of a processor, related integrated circuits and wireless communications chip. Intel says that used together it will bring a 30 percent savings in power over the previous generation chipset. Power consumption is an area where Intel has an advantage over its competitors because it has moved faster to a manufacturing process that lowers the energy use and the cost of manufacturing its IC's. (Intel)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: AMSAT SYMPOSIUM CALLS FR PAPERS

In ham radio space related news, a second call has gone out for papers to be presented at the upcoming 2008 AMSAT Space Symposium and Annual Meeting. The dates for this event are October 24th to the 26th in Atlanta, Georgia.

Proposals for papers, symposium presentations, and poster presentations are invited on any topic of interest to the amateur satellite program. An emphasis for this year is an educational outreach to middle and high school students. Another topic if interest is using amateur satellite tracking systems to monitor deep space network objects.

Camera ready copy on paper or in electronic form will be due by September 1st for inclusion in the printed symposium proceedings. Abstracts and papers should be sent to n8fgv at amsat dot org (AMSAT - NA)

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WORLDBEAT - UK: BECOME A UK HAM AT THE RSGB HIGH FREQUENCY CONVENTION

Planning a trip overseas this fall? Well if your destination is the United Kingdom in October its also a chance to take the that nations ham radio tests.

The RSGB is offering those wishing to obtain a UK Amateur Radio License the opportunity to complete one, or more, of the required examinations over the weekend of the HF Convention. That's the 10th to the 12th of October.

Candidates must book their examinations prior to the event and must provide evidence they have completed the required practical assessments, although limited facilities to complete assessments can be arranged at the at the show. Contact information is provided in this weeks printed Newsline report.

The contact for further information and for booking examinations is John James, john.james at rsgb dot org dot uk, or via the RSGB HQ switchboard on 01234 832700. Candidates for the Foundation & Intermediate Exams must contact Brian Reay, G8OSN, by email to ardc dot chairman at rsgb dot org dot uk so that their progress on practical assessments can be verified. If

required, Brian can also advise on finding a local tutor to complete practical assessments in advance of the High Frequency Convention or the provision of exam facilities at the show. (GB2RS)

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WORLDBEAT SOUTH AFRICA: CHASING MAIDENS - A NEW SA FUN AWARD

South Africa's Sandton Amateur Radio Club has announced that it is sponsoring a new Worked all South African Grid Squares Chasing Maidens award as of the 1st of August. The "Maidens" referred to are Maidenhead grid locators and the aim of this contest is to make contact with a station located in each of the 83 grid squares that comprise South Africa. More information is on-line at www.zs6stn.org.za/zswags. You can also send an email to zswags at gmail dot com to receive a copy of the rules. (SARL)

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THE CONTEST FILE: CQ WW 160 METER PHONE CONTEST DATE CHANGED.

In radiosports news, word that the dates for the 2009 CQ WW 160 Meter Phone Contest has been postponed by a week. This, to avoid conflict with the ARRL DX CW Contest. The 2009 CQWW 160 Meter Phone Contest will now take place between February 27th and March 1st, 2009. (CQ)

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DX

In DX, 3F5RBB, will be active portable 3A from Monaco between August 31st and September 10th. Listen out for him on 40, 20, 15 and10 meters. QSL to his home callsign.

And IN3VZE will once again be active holiday style from the southwest shore of Lake Malawi. This, between August 29th and September 11th. His callsign will be 7Q7CE, and he will be on all bands using SSB and the Digital modes. QSL card is "OK" via the bureau or direct to his home call address.

Lastly, DL1BKK and DL1BKI are celebrating 40 years of marriage on a holiday style DXpedition as 8Q7KK from Kuramathi in the Maldive Islands. This, between August 29th and September 17th. Heir activity will be holiday style using an Icom IC-7000 into wire antennas. QSL to DL1BKK, direct or via the bureau. There's no electronic QSLing for this one. (From various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: EARHART FESTIVAL FEATURES HAM RADIO

And finally this week, ham radio was part of an event that honored an early United States aviation pioneer. This, as Earhart International Festival took place the weekend of August 16th and 17th in Derry, Ireland. Again, here is WIA reporter Marilyn Syme, VK3DMS:

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Scores of radio amateurs across three continents, from Russia to the USA, linked up to send good wishes for the Festival - they even made contact with an American businessman who was flying his personal jet some 42,000 feet above the country park.

Keeping with the spirit of Amelia Earhart was the awe-inspiring flypast from Letter-kenny Flying Club, whose five-plane formation thrilled the crowds. Then international radio link ups by the Foyle and District Amateur Radio Club in the Earhart Cottage.

The Director of the Earhart International Festival has paid tribute to the thousands who defied the weather to enjoy the wonderful community atmosphere and top-quality entertainment on offer at Ballyarnett Country Park at the weekend. I'm VK3DMS

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The Earhart International Festival is dedicated to its namesake Amelia Earhart. She was an American aviation pioneer and noted author who gained world-wide fame for her flying exploits in the early 20th century. In 1937, during an attempt to circumnavigate the globe, Earhart and her navigator Fred Noonan disappeared over the central Pacific not far from Howland Island. While there has been speculation as to their fate over the years, to date no conclusive evidence has surfaced to prove any theory other than that the pair ran out of fuel and crashed at sea. (WIA, Derry Journal)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jim Davis, W2JKD, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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